

REMARKS

This Reconsideration of this application in view of the below remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 18 – 20 and 22 – 42 are pending in the application with Claim 18 being in independent form. The present amendment supplements the claims amended on August 10, 2009. By way of the present amendment, Claims 18 and 42 are amended and Claims 43 and 44 are newly added.

Claim 18 is amended to recite: “...the tubular member further comprising an airtightness-maintaining and position-adjusting portion between said first and second ends adapted to maintain the airtight seal of the inner space in response to relative movements of the optical system support member and the imaging element support member and adapted to allow adjustment of relative positions of the optical system support member and the imaging element support member, the airtightness-maintaining and position-adjusting portion expanding and contracting for distance adjustment and deforming for position adjustment such that an optical axis of said at least one optical lens of the optical system support member and an optical axis of an imaging surface of said imaging element of the imaging element support member coincide with each other in the tubular member...” Additionally, Claim 42 is amended to conform to the language recited in Claim 18.

Newly added Claims 43 and 44 recite: “...the airtightness-maintaining and position-adjusting is a bellows portion formed into a tubular body...” and “...the bellows portion is airtightly sealed...” respectively. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the disclosure, for example para. [0059] through [0063] of the U.S. Published application.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 18 – 20 and 22 – 44 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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